

REMARKS

This is in response to the Final Office Action mailed on November 16, 2006, in which claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1-12 stand rejected and claims 13-15 are objected to and claims 15-20 are allowed in the Action. By this Response, claims 1-7 and 10-13 have been canceled, and claims 8, 14 and 15 are amended. All other pending claims remain unchanged in the application.

Claim 15 has been objected to in the Action due to an alleged informality. Claim 15 has been amended as suggested in the Action. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 6-8 and 10-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the Applicants' admitted prior art, U.S. Pat. Pub. 2003/0172222 of Paskonis, U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2002/0112688 of Fariz et al. (hereinafter "Fariz"), and U.S. Pat. No. 5,602,526 of Read. Claims 1-3, 7, and 10-12 are canceled, rendering the rejection moot. Claim 8 is amended to incorporate the features of dependent claim 13, which the Action states is allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 4 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the Applicants' prior art admission, in view Paskonis, Fariz, Read, and U.S. Pat. Pub. 2004/0203381 of Cahn et al. Claims 4 and 5 have been canceled, rendering the rejection moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Applicants' admitted prior art, Paskonis, Fariz, Read, and further in view of U.S. Pat. Pub. 2004/0000799 of Wherley. Claim 9 depends from independent claim 8, which, as discussed above, is believed to be allowable over the cited references. For at least this reason, claim 9 is submitted to be allowable over the references cited. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Applicants acknowledge and thank the Examiner for recognizing that claims 13-20 contain allowable subject matter. Applicants have incorporated the subject matter into claim 8 and have canceled claim 13. Claim 14, which was previously dependent on claim 13 has been amended to depend from the amended claim 8.

In summary, claims 1-7 and 10-13 are canceled and claims 8 and 14-15 are amended by this Response. Applicants submit that pending claims 8-9 and 14-20 are allowable in view of the amendments and remarks provided above. Favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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